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first description is the original description upon which a name must stand, and in these days there is absolutely no excuse for such careless practises. When so much time has to be taken up in going over the imperfect work of the older writers it is hard to understand why present day authors persist in perpetrating the same sort of crimes against taxonomy, to trouble future generations. 'The Auk' has no personal feeling in such cases, but is doing its utmost to discourage careless systematic work and to persuade all journals to insist upon full and adequate diagnoses of new forms.—W. S.

'**Cassinia**'.<sup>1</sup>—With the current issue of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club's annual, Dr. Spencer Trotter assumes the duties of editor. The high type of the publication both as to typography and character of contents is fully maintained and both the editor and the Club are to be congratulated upon the appearance of this, the sixteenth annual number.

The opening article is by Dr. Trotter and is an interesting biography of Wm. P. Turnbull, author of that beautiful little brochure on the 'Birds of East Pennsylvania and New Jersey' which Dr. Coues refers to as "the best printed treatise on American birds extant" and in which his amanuensis found "no typographical error after close scrutiny."

Henry W. Fowler, the president of the Club, presents a list of 'Some Rare or Unusual Birds in Upper Philadelphia', supplementary to a previous list published in 'Cassinia' fourteen years ago.

An excellent account of the nesting of the Least Bittern is furnished by Julian K. Potter, who fortunately studied the habits of the birds and development of the young, and photographed the nest at various stages, thereby adding to our knowledge of the species to an extent that could not be done by the mere collecting of the set of eggs.

Thomas D. Burleigh contributes a list of breeding birds from Samar, Clinton Co., Pa.

The usual 'Report on Bird Migration' and 'Abstract of the Proceedings of the Club' close the number. Those possessing this issue should make sure that reprinted pages have been substituted for pp. 27-30 which contained errors in the migration tables.—W. S.

**Shelton's Land Birds of West Central Oregon.**<sup>2</sup>—In this well prepared bulletin Mr. Shelton presents a list of 143 species with the status of each in the district under consideration, which is nearly coincident with the boundaries of Lake County. The method of treatment follows that of Dr. Joseph Grinnell's distributional list of California birds with the synonyms omitted. An introduction discusses the life zones of the area,

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<sup>1</sup> Cassinia, Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, of Philadelphia. 1916. Issued March, 1917. pp. 1-58.

<sup>2</sup> A Distributional List of the Land birds of Western Oregon. By Alfred C. Shelton. University of Oregon Bulletin, New Series, Vol. XIV, No. 4. January, 1917. 8vo, pp. 1-51, figs. 1-10.

the physical features of each being described as well as the characteristic forest trees. We note that two Transition Zones are recognized; a 'Normal Transition' covering most of the interior, and a 'Humid Transition' occupying most of the coast, the Canadian being limited to a very narrow strip immediately on the ocean. The nomenclature is essentially that of the A. O. U. Check-List although certain forms not accepted in that publication are considered valid by Mr. Shelton, though his reasons are not stated.

In the introduction we learn that the distributions are based largely upon work carried on in the interests of the University of Oregon, while the collection of the Oregon Fish and Game Commission was also placed at the author's command. The half-tone illustrations are from photographic views of typical areas in the several zones.

Mr. Shelton is to be congratulated upon a very creditable piece of work, which will no doubt stimulate others to carry on local distributional work in Oregon on the same plan that Dr. Grinnell and his associates have done in California.—W. S.

**McGregor on New or Noteworthy Philippine Birds.**<sup>1</sup>—*Leucotreron merrilli* (269) is described as new from Luzon while notes on the occurrence of *Platalea minor*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Totanus stagnatilis*, *Sporaginus amandava* in Luzon; and of *Pycnonotus plumosus* on Cagayan Sulu Island, the fauna of which is more Bornean than Philippine.

In *Platalea* Mr. McGregor found a curious diminutive feather at the base of the first primary. A note from Dr. C. W. Richmond is published in this connection calling attention to the discovery by Prof. Baird, many years ago, of similar feathers on the wings of Vireos.—W. S.

### The Ornithological Journals.

**Bird-Lore.** XIX, No. 2. March–April, 1917.

The Great Blue Herons of Honeoye. By Verdi Burtch. An excellent study of a New York heronry, with good photographic illustrations.

The Purple Martin at Wichita, Kansas. By R. H. Sullivan. Migration and nesting data.

The Educational Leaflet treats of the Sage Grouse and Dr. Chapman discusses the plumages of the Marsh, Winter, House and Bewick's Wrens, with a colored plate by Fuertes, which brings this series to a close.

**Bird-Lore.** XIX, No. 3. May–June, 1917.

Our Neighbors of the Grape-Vine. By T. Macklin. A study of nesting Robins.

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<sup>1</sup> New or Noteworthy Philippine Birds. By Richard C. McGregor. Philippine Jour. of Science, XI, No. 4, Sec. D, July, 1916. pp. 269–275.